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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 17, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 12, which included the Labor Day Holiday, totaled an estimated 16.4 billion ton-miles, 6.6 percent below the corresponding non-holiday week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 37 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 644.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 4.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the holiday week ended September 12 totaled 373,891, down 7.3 percent from the corresponding non-holiday week of last year, and 13.8 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 12.6 percent in the East and down 1.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal decreased by 8,993 cars (7.5 percent), while motor vehicles and equipment showed a drop of 4,767 cars (23.0 percent). Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 5 totaled 105,390 trailers and/or containers, 21.4 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 36 weeks of the year was 3,505,685 trailers and/or containers, up 3.7 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/12/87:

	Loadings in Week ended September 12, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,188	D	229	0.8	D	3,765	11.8
Other farm products	3,160	D	679	17.7	I	358	12.8
Metallic ores	17,652	D	1,985	10.1	D	1,542	8.0
Coal	110,446	D	8,993	7.5	D	14,418	11.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,998	D	1,624	10.4	D	3,063	18.0
Nonmetallic minerals	9,463	I	773	8.9	D	1,298	12.1
Grain mill products	9,535	D	1,287	11.9	D	1,470	13.4
Food and kindred products	9,518	D	1,299	12.0	D	1,329	12.3
Primary forest products	8,900	D	1,642	15.6	D	1,820	17.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,860	D	1,061	13.4	D	1,624	19.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,704	D	976	7.7	D	1,189	9.2
Chemicals and allied products	23,497	D	2,010	7.9	D	4,279	15.4
Petroleum products	4,622	I	100	2.2	D	734	13.7
Stone, clay and glass products	10,352	D	364	3.4	D	1,291	11.1
Coke	5,081	I	1,657	48.4	I	333	7.0
Metals and products	8,433	I	1,080	14.7	D	1,779	17.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,971	D	4,767	23.0	D	2,050	11.4
Waste and scrap materials	7,723	I	32	0.4	D	1,635	17.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,568	D	827	24.4	D	788	23.5
All other carloads	66,119	D	5,219	7.3	D	16,551	20.0
LCL traffic	101	I	6	6.3	D	29	22.3
Total Cars Loaded	373,891	D	29,314	7.3	D	59,963	13.8
Corresponding week of 1986	403,205						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (37 weeks)	14,404,150	13,883,857	I 3.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
36 Weeks ended September 5	628.4	599.9	I 4.7
Week ended September 12	16.4	17.5	D 6.6
37 Weeks cumulative	644.8	617.4	I 4.4

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